

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re

U.S. Application of: Akiyoshi JOHDAI and Koji HIGASHIKAWA
For: BINDING MEMBER REMOVING APPARATUS,
AUTOMATIC DOCUMENT FEEDER, SHEET
PROCESSING APPARATUS, AND IMAGE
FORMING APPARATUS

Confirmation No.: To Be Assigned
U.S. Serial No.: To Be Assigned
Filed: Concurrently
Group Art Unit: To Be Assigned
Examiner: To Be Assigned

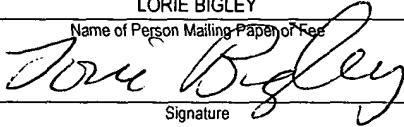
Prior Application:

Serial No.: 09/377,011
Confirmation No.: 7240
Filed: August 18, 1999
Group Art Unit: 3651
Examiner: Patrick H. Mackey

MAIL STOP PATENT APPLICATION

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

EXPRESS MAIL MAILING LABEL NO.: EL 794576615 US DATE OF DEPOSIT: AUGUST 1, 2003
I hereby certify that this paper or fee is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 C.F.R. § 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to MAIL STOP PATENT APPLICATION, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
<hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">LORIE BIGLEY</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">Name of Person Mailing Paper or Fee</p>  <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">Signature</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">August 1, 2003</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Date of Signature</p>

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

In compliance with the duty of disclosure set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicants
wish to bring the following items to the attention of the Examiner. Copies of each of the
documents are enclosed for the convenience of the Examiner.

No representation is made, and no representation is intended, that more relevant material does not exist, or that the order of presentation of this material in any way reflects its relative pertinence.

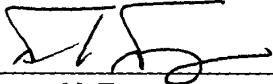
The references cited below are not intended to constitute an admission of any kind. Specifically, this presentation is not an admission that the items listed below are properly citable against the above-identified new divisional application.

- (1) Hovens et al., U.S. Patent No. 4,473,220, issued September 25, 1984;
- (2) Japanese Published Examined Patent Application No. (A) 62-154445 (NISSIN ELECTRIC CO LTD), published July 9, 1987;
- (3) Japanese Published Unexamined Patent Application No. (A) 06-186807 (RICOH CO LTD), published July 8, 1994;
- (4) Japanese Published Unexamined Patent Application No. (A) 06-343891 (CANON APTECS KK), published December 20, 1994;
- (5) Japanese Published Unexamined Patent Application No. (A) 08-015927 (CANON INC), published January 19, 1996;
- (6) Japanese Published Unexamined Patent Application No. (A) 08-090452 (RICOH CO LTD), published April 9, 1996;
- (7) Japanese Published Unexamined Patent Application No. (A) 08-155857 (MITA IND CO LTD), published June 18, 1996;
- (8) Japanese Published Unexamined Patent Application No. (A) 08-155858 (MITA IND CO LTD), published June 18, 1996;

- (9) Japanese Published Unexamined Patent Application No. (A) 08-208111 (TOSHIBA CORP), published August 13, 1996; and
- (10) Parks, U.S. Patent No. 5,583,628, issued December 10, 1996.

As this Information Disclosure Statement is being filed concurrently with the new divisional application, no fee is incurred. However, if it should be determined that a fee is required, please charge any required fee (other than the issue fee) during the pendency of this application to Sidley Austin Brown & Wood's Deposit Account No. 18-1260. Please credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 18-1260.

Respectfully submitted,

By: 

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August 1, 2003

Substitute for form 1449A/PTO				Complete if Known				
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT				Application Number	To Be Assigned			
				Confirmation No.	To Be Assigned			
				Filing Date	Concurrently			
				First Inventor	Akiyoshi JOHDAI et al.			
				Group Art Unit	To Be Assigned			
				Examiner Name	To Be Assigned			
Sheet	1	of	1	Attorney Docket No. 15162/01041				

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials	Cite #	DOCUMENT NUMBER	C O D E	PATENTEE	ISSUE DATE (mm/dd/yy)	CLASS	SUB CLASS	Filing Date if Appropriate
	(1)	4,473,220		Hovens et al.	09/25/84	270	53	
	(10)	5,583,628		Parks	12/10/96	355	308	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials	O F F I C E	NUMBER	C O D E	PUBLICATION DATE (mm/dd/yy)	TRANSLATION Yes No
	(2)	JP 62-154445	(A)	07/09/87	ABSTRACT ONLY
	(3)	JP 06-186807	(A)	07/08/94	ABSTRACT ONLY
	(4)	JP 06-343891	(A)	12/20/94	ABSTRACT ONLY
	(5)	JP 08-015927	(A)	01/19/96	ABSTRACT ONLY
	(6)	JP 08-090452	(A)	04/09/96	ABSTRACT ONLY
	(7)	JP 08-155857	(A)	06/18/96	ABSTRACT ONLY
	(8)	JP 08-155858	(A)	06/18/96	ABSTRACT ONLY
	(9)	JP 08-208111	(A)	08/13/96	ABSTRACT ONLY

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published		
Examiner Signature			Date Considered

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with the next communication to applicant.